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This is once more a book to put on the shelf for reserence rather than a book for reading.* It sketches the development of music from the first primitive attempts to the most recent orchestral works of this day. Necessarily the sketches are cursory and slight. There is no attempt at new or enlightened criticism of modern work, but all the well-known estimates are piously recorded. A most valuable part of the book is the bibliographical supplement and list of books on musical subjects given at the end. The book is meant for students and is a safe and conventional enough outline of the course of music in the last three and a half centuries.

In matters of taste, dispute is worse than futile, as the ancient adage points out; and if, therefore, we disagree with every position Mr. Lorenz takes up+ as regards church music it is by no means to assert that his book might not have a value for others who would agree. He records with jubilation that "England sings our gospel and Sunday-school songs more generally than its own fine cathedral tunes." He seems to rejoice heartily that the lower product should have the wider spread. It is a thousand pities that America should not instead have adopted the cathedral hymns. His book is didactic in tone and gives much direction to ministers as to their musical obligations and duties. It covers the whole ground of the obligations of the minister, choir-master, choir, and we can only say that we should carefully avoid the church which should adopt it as a handbook.

FICTION.

After five years of silence, Mr. James Lane Allen has issued a short story which is a cross between a mystical and a realistic treatment of the marriage relation. Some dozen years ago Mr. Allen published in a preface to the "A summer in Arcady," a rather ill-judged indictment of the French realists aimed chiefly against Maupassant. The objection to that story was that Mr. Allen seemed to point out that sensuality within the pale of

^{*&}quot;The Study of the History of Music." By Edward Dickinson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.

†"Practical Church Music." By Edmund S. Lorenz. New York: Fleming Revell Company, 1909.